



Montana Public Service Commission
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QWEST REGIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO MEET SEPT. 13 IN MISSOULA

Missoula will host the semiannual meeting of representatives of the state regulatory commissions that comprise the Qwest Regional Oversight Committee on Monday, September 13. The day-long meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Missoula Parkside, 200 S. Pattee St., beginning at 8:45 a.m.

The Regional Oversight Committee was formed by the 14 state regulatory commissions, including the Montana Public Service Commission, that regulate Qwest in the years following the breakup of “Ma Bell.” It is a way to share information and coordinate among states on telecommunications matters. The Regional Oversight Committee member states have cooperated on customer service issues, implementation of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, and other matters. The largest project undertaken was a multi-state “alternative dispute resolution” project to achieve Qwest’s compliance with Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act, which required Qwest and other Bell companies to take certain steps to open their local markets to competition before they could offer interLATA long distance service within their home regions. There is nothing similar to the Regional Oversight Committee in other parts of the country.

The meeting agenda follows:

Ballroom AB

8:45 – 8:50 **Welcome** – Hon. Tony Clark, ROC Chairman; President, North Dakota PSC

8:50 – 9:15 **The ROC Multi-State Qwest Performance Assurance Plan Audit** – Learn more about the progress of the ROC coordinated effort to establish a multi-state audit of the Qwest 271 performance assurance plan.

Moderator: Tom Spinks, Regulatory Consultant, Washington UTC

Panelists: Walt Drabinski, President, Vantage Consulting Inc.

Cherie Axelrod, Director - Regulatory Compliance, Qwest

9:15 – 10:45 **Telecom Financials post-Triennial Review Order** – What are investors hearing? What does it mean for telecom investment in the Qwest region? Attendees will hear from a panel of distinguished experts in the telecom investment community.

Moderator: Hon. Elliott Smith, Commissioner, Iowa Utilities Board
and ROC Vice Chairman

Panelists: Jessica Zufolo, Sr. Policy Director, Medley Global Advisors
Anna-Maria Kovacs, Pres., Regulatory Source Associates

Other financial panelists invited

10:45 – 11:00 **Break**

11:00 – Noon **Keynote Address** – John Stanton, Chairman and CEO of Western Wireless Corporation. Mr. Stanton is a leader in the wireless industry throughout the region and the nation. He will offer his perspectives on the future of telecommunications.

Noon – 1:30 **Lunch Break** (*on your own*)

1:30 – 2:15 **Federal Update** – Learn more about the numerous orders and notices at the FCC that are of critical importance to the industry and the states within the ROC region.

Moderator: Hon. Ray Baum, Commissioner, Oregon PUC

Presenters: Robert Tanner, Senior Legal Counsel to the Bureau Chief,
FCC Wireline Competition Bureau
Ian Dillner, Attorney, FCC Competition Bureau

2:15 – 3:15 **A Case Study in the Emerging Commercial Agreements** – Background and perspectives on the Qwest-CLEC commercial negotiations

Moderator: Hon. Bob Rowe, Commissioner, Montana PSC

Speaker: Cheryl Parrino, President of Parrino Strategic Consulting
Group and a past NARUC President

3:15 – 3:30 **Break**

3:30 – 5:00 **Beyond the Triennial Review Order Panel** – Hear from a panel of leading experts who will answer the question—Where are we now? Procedural, legal, regulatory, policy and jurisdictional issues will be explored. As always, special emphasis will be placed on the implications for Qwest states.

Moderator: Hon. Patrick Oshie, Commissioner, Washington UTC

Panelists: Mary Tribby, VP/Chief Regulatory Counsel, AT&T
Tom Dixon, Associate Counsel, MCI
Ray Gifford, President, The Progress & Freedom Foundation
Wendy Moser, V.P. Policy & Assoc. General Counsel, Qwest
Bill Haas, V.P./Deputy General Counsel, McLeod USA

5:30 – 6:30 **Social** (*Ballroom CD*)

6:30 – 8:00 **Dinner** (*Ballroom CD*)

Speaker: John Rose, President, OPASTCO

